

REMARKS

On November 12, 2003, Applicant filed the above referenced application. This application is a continuation-in-part application of application 09/795,664 filed on February 28, 2001, which issued on January 13, 2004 as United States Patent No. 6,676,428. A proper priority claim to the parent application was made in the present application at the time of filing. In addition, the present application incorporated by reference the parent application in its entirety. Specifically, the present application stated:

This application is a continuation-in-part application and claims priority to United States Paten Application Serial Number 09/795,664 filed February 28, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

Upon receiving the Notice of Missing Parts for the above captioned application, Applicant was made aware that an unintentional error occurred in filing the application. The application was filed with less than all the intended and described drawing figures. In particular, Figures 24-27 were described in the originally filed specification of the current child application on page 10 lines 1-8, but the application was filed without drawing figures 24-27.

As discussed above, the parent application was incorporated by reference into the present application. Under MPEP § 2163.07(b), “information incorporated is as much a part of the application as if the text was repeated in the application, and should be treated as part of the text of the application as filed.” While the MPEP does not specifically address incorporation of figures, Applicant believes that figures, which contain as much “information” as text if not more, are entitled to the same treatment as text. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be amended to include Figures 24-27 enclosed herewith. These enclosed

figures are exactly the same as contained in the parent application. No new matter has been added in these figures or will be added by this amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance, and requests reconsideration of the same. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application by the present amendments and requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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